

*Congressman Says Federal Crime Fighting Resources
Should be Placed Nearest to Where Crime Occur*

Newburgh, NY – Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today requested that the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) relocate the FBI's Hudson Valley Resident Agency office from Goshen to the City of Newburgh. Hinchey cited the high incidence of drug and violent gang crime in Newburgh, stressing the need to locate critical federal crime fighting resources in a community that is struggling to combat high rates of violent crime and gang activity. The full text of Hinchey's letter to Acting Regional GSA Administrator John Scorcia follows.

October 13, 2010

Mr. John Scorcia
Acting Regional Administrator, Northeast and Caribbean Region
US General Services Administration
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Scorcia:

I am writing to urge the General Services Administration to relocate the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Hudson Valley Resident Agency offices from Goshen to the City of Newburgh. The FBI's full-time presence in Newburgh, New York would be invaluable to local crime fighting agencies in combating the high incidence of drug and gang related violence in the City of Newburgh and provide a strong message of hope to this struggling community.

As you know federal, state and local law enforcement agencies collaborated in an unprecedented show of force resulting in the arrest of 72 gang members during a sting operation in the City of Newburgh in May. This coordinated undertaking was a much-needed first step to combat the high incidence of gang-related crime that has plagued this city. Unfortunately, the issue of drug and gang violence in Newburgh remains far from resolved. A

permanent presence by the FBI in Newburgh would certainly help to address the city's unacceptable crime rate and thereby support efforts to revitalize this historic community and return it to its former glory as the "Jewel of the Hudson."

Relative to other municipalities across the country, Newburgh, has seen disproportionately high rates of assault and murder in the last several years -- making Newburgh among the most violent cities per capita in the nation. The problem of gang violence is fueled by a significant market for illegal drugs that are purchased in Newburgh and distributed throughout the state. The violence in this small city of 29,000 residents is so pronounced that it has drawn national media attention and prompted statements of concern from both President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder. Clearly, the crime problems demand increased attention and resources from all levels of government.

I strongly support the requests from the Newburgh community to relocate the FBI's Hudson Valley Resident Agency offices to the City to provide additional crime fighting support and help to alleviate the high incidence of drug and gang violence that currently cripples the city. Thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Maurice D. Hinchey

cc: Robert S. Muller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation